reading the system state information from the first medium and:

1) automatically configuring a storage mechanism based on the storage mechanism configuration data, and

2) creating a restoration environment from the system state information;

enabling the operation of the backup device in the restoration environment; and

operating the backup device to restore the data files by reading the second medium.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein writing system state information includes writing hard disk configuration information as the storage mechanism configuration data.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically configuring the storage mechanism includes configuring at least one hard disk based on the storage mechanism configuration data.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically configuring a storage mechanism includes configuring a hard disk based on the storage mechanism configuration data, and creating a restoration environment includes copying operating system files to the hard disk.

27. (Amended) A method for restoring a computer system, comprising:

accessing system state information including hard disk configuration information and recovery information;

interpreting the hard disk configuration information to automatically configure a hard disk based thereon;

creating a restoration environment from the system state information including writing data to the configured hard disk; and

executing at least one recovery instruction based on the recovery information.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein creating a restoration environment from the system state information includes configuring at least one other hard disk.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein creating the restoration environment from the system state information includes copying system files to the configured hard disk.

39. (Amended) A system for backing up a first computer device for restoring to a second computer device, comprising:

a medium;